



NEWSLETTER



October 18, 2012

**Lane County
Farm Service Agency**

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Eugene OR 97402

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Hours

M-F 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Staff

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**Lane County
Committee**

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Reminder Of Changes In 2013 Acreage Reporting Dates!!

FSA has changed their acreage reporting deadlines to more closely match crop insurance reporting deadlines beginning with the 2013 crop year.

November 15 is the first reporting date but it applies to only producers that have purchased an Apiculture (honey) policy or a Pasture Range and Forage (haying and grazing) policy from Risk Management Agency (RMA) or a crop insurance agent.

December 15 is the next deadline to report Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, established Perennial Forage (hay, pasture, rangeland, etc), Fall Mint, Onions (planted 8/15-9/15), Fall Wheat, and all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains.

January 15, 2013 brings the deadline to report Apples, Blueberries, Cherries, Cranberries, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Grapes, Pears and Plums

Some producers will have more than one reporting deadline. Please contact us now for an appointment to report these acres.

CRP AND DCP PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual rental payments and 2012 Direct & Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) final payments were issued the first two weeks of October.

Producers who have earned these payments are encouraged to verify these deposits to your designated financial institution and account. If these payments do not appear by the end of October, contact our office.

County Committee Elections

County Committee Elections for LAA 1 (Junction City, North & West Eugene, and Highway 36 to NW of Deadwood area) will not occur until January 2013.

Ballots will be mailed January 7, 2013 to all known eligible voters in LAA 1. If you don't receive a ballot and believe you should have, please notify our office. Signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on February 4, 2013.

Information on the candidates will be sent in a December 2012 newsletter.

IRS 1099 Changes

Calendar year 2012 has brought changes to the way FSA reports farm program payments to the producer and to the IRS. In past years, IRS Forms 1099-G would be issued to show all program payments received from the Farm Service Agency, regardless of the amount.

Starting with calendar year 2012, producers whose total reportable payments from FSA are less than \$600 will not receive IRS Form 1099-G. Also, producers who receive payments from more than one county will only receive one Form 1099-G if the total of all payments from all counties is \$600 or more.

The same changes will apply to producers and vendors who normally receive IRS Form 1099-MISC from FSA.





CREP & Continuous CRP Available

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allows farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll environmentally sensitive land into a program that decreases erosion, restores wildlife habitat and safeguards ground and surface water. CREP is a partnership with federal and state government and is limited to specific geographic areas.

FSA provides participants with annual rental payments for the life of the contract (10 – 15 years) and cost sharing on practice installation. There are also incentive payments based on the cost of establishing the practice.

CREP targets the use of Riparian Buffers, Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Habitat Buffers, and Wetland Buffers to meet the objective of the program.

Give Jean or Patti a call for more details.

Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Period Now Open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades can file claims between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: **1-888-508-4429**

Claims Period: September 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment.

New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities.

For more information about FSFL visit our office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency.

If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call our office or e-mail and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

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Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups.

Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Call the Farm Loan Staff (Donna, Julie, or Patty) in the Tangent office at 541.967.5925 extension 2 for help preparing and processing the application forms.



Increased Guaranteed Loan Limit

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program increased to \$1,302,000 on Oct. 1, 2012. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,602,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Contact the Tangent FSA Farm Loan staff with questions about farm loans.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive
Workforce: What Can YOU Do?

www.dol.gov/odep

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Sign-Up Period for 2011 Crop Losses

The sign-up period for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program opens Oct. 22, 2012 and ends June 7, 2013. The SURE program authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10-percent production loss on a crop of economic significance;
- A policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops;
- Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Sec of Ag under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

For more information on the 2011 SURE program, visit any FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/sure.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9450, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

Federal Crop Insurance Coverage (FCIC) 2013 Crops

These crops are NOT eligible for loss assistance under NAP. Federal Crop Insurance is sold and maintained by private insurance agents. Call our office for a list of authorized agents or access the web address listed below.

2013 Insurable Crops & sales closing dates:

November 20:
Grapes, Apples, Pears

November 30:
Apiculture

January 31, 2013:
Adjusted Gross
Revenue

Non-insured Assistance Program (NAP) Deadlines Approaching

NAP is available for all crops not covered under Federal Crop Insurance. NAP provides catastrophic level of coverage (50% yield / 55% price) to crops damaged by the eligible weather events that occur before or during harvest.

Fees are \$250/crop, maximum of \$750/county, and a maximum of \$1875/multi County.

2013 Crop Sales closing dates:

November 20, 2012 Apples, apricots, blueberries, caneberries, chestnuts, cherries, cranberries, grapes, hazelnuts, honey, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, strawberries, walnuts

November 30, 2012 All forage and grazing crops except oats. All grasses and legumes for seed.

There are no provisions for purchasing NAP coverage late.



Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of socially disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2012	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	1.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	3.00%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 7 year	1.125%
Farm Storage Facility – 10 year	1.750%
Farm Storage Facility – 12 year	2.000%
Sugar Storage Facility	2.125%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.125%

Dates to Remember	
Nov 12	Veteran's Day, Office Closed
Nov 15	Acreage Report Deadline, see page 1
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
Dec 6	County Committee Meeting, tentative date
Dec 15	Acreage Report Deadline, see page 1
Dec 25	Christmas Day, Office Closed
Jan 7 2013	Committee Election Ballots mailed
Jan 15 2013	Acreage Report Deadline, see page 1
Feb 4 2013	Ballots due in Office

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